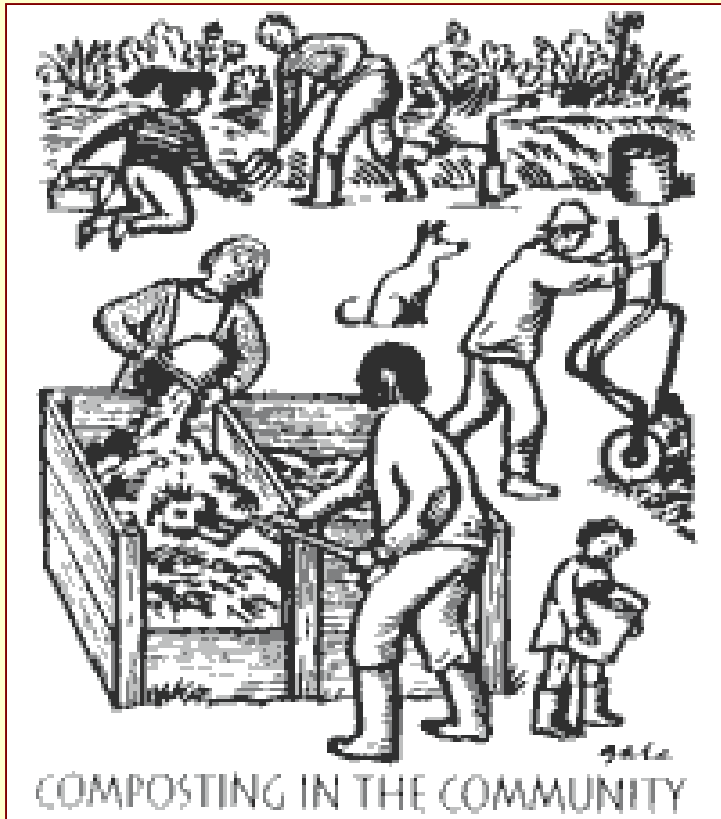
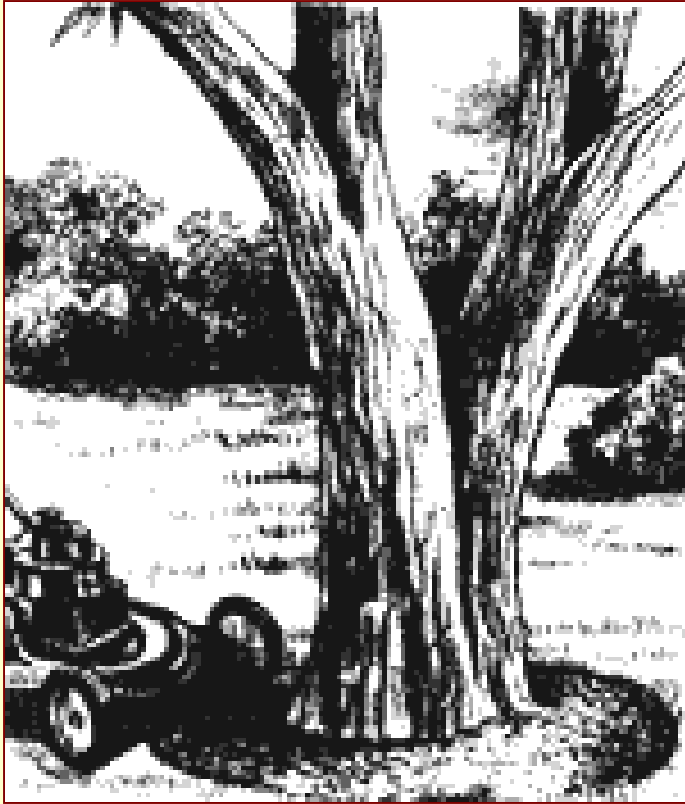


Management Strategies



- Leave it Lie Programs
- Home Garden Mulch campaign
- Home compost bins
- Mulching Mower Rebates
- Garden club/community garden composting
- Local nursery/arboretum programs
- Agricultural applications
- Animal feed Program
- Chipping for mulch
- Firewood for campgrounds

“Leave It Lie”



This campaign encourages members of the community to leave grass clippings and leaves on their lawn to provide nutrients and valuable organic matter to their lawns while reducing waste collection services. Mulching mowers or well maintained side discharge mowers will do the trick. The key is to mow often, when the grass is dry and with a sharp mower blade.

Home Garden Mulch



Using mulch in the garden has been proven to help retain soil moisture, deter annual weeds, reduce erosion, and moderate soil temperatures. Mulch can be created at home using pine needles, leaves, grass clippings or dried straw. This campaign will also help keep organic waste out of municipal landfills.

“Organic Mulches for Gardens and Landscape Plantings” available thru ISU Extension Service at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/RG209.pdf>

Home Compost Bins



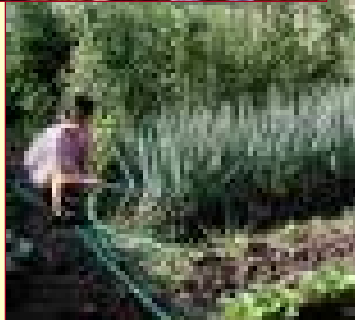
Home composting bins can play an important role in reducing municipal waste especially in conjunction with home mulching and “Let it Lie” campaigns. These bins are often inexpensive and can be used when large scale municipal composting facilities are not an option.

Mulching Mower Rebates



Rebates can be offered for purchasing or modifying lawn mowers to help reduce the need for clipping collection. This method has proven very successful in several communities in Iowa and can also create awareness about waste reduction and alternatives to municipal collection in your community.

Garden Club/Community Composting Center



This approach helps local gardeners or a gardening club make use of composting materials other people would send to the landfill. If you are aware of a club, approach them about accepting yard waste from the community. This method works well for communities with low to moderate yard waste disposal needs.

Local Nursery and Arboretum Mulch Programs

A local nursery or arboretum may be able to put your community's yard waste to work. Contact a local operator to find out whether they would be willing to participate in this kind of program. Establish a drop site either at the facility or at a convenient location for local residents.



Land Application on Agricultural Land



Land application is a very common way to manage yard waste and is practiced widely across Iowa. The material is collected by the community or dropped off at a selected location and simply spread on agricultural land or tilled under the soil.

Animal Feed Program



Yard waste that has been collected and dried may be used as a dietary supplement for sheep or cattle. Studies done in Iowa in the early 1990's indicated that animals find a mix of conventional feed and yard waste highly palatable. The study also found that yard waste has 17-30% protein, depending on season. During dry years, this supplement may be highly desirable.

Chipping for Mulch



A chipping for mulch program meets the disposal needs of the community while providing a usable end product for the city and residents. Chippers can be shared or purchased and a drop off site or curbside pick up program can be set up with relative ease.

*City officials or their contracted partners must remember to let chipped wood cure one week before reusing it as mulch.

Firewood Cutting for Campgrounds and Fireplaces



Large pieces of wood can be cut into firewood and made available to residents who may heat with wood, local campgrounds, or other interested groups. A “Cut and Take” program can divert cost by letting residents cut what they need rather than the city preparing it for them.